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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

South Africa:* draft resolution

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/234 of 19 December 2014 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 United States dollar a day[2] and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Taking note of the ongoing efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[5] adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[6] adopted in September 2014

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Since 2008, United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals have been using a poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars a day.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[6] Resolution 69/15, annex.

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at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,[7] adopted in November 2014 at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and recognizing the need to establish a plan of action for cooperation with middle-income countries,

Recalling the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development", its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010 on the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013 on the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note with appreciation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011, entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Council,[8] which called for increased efforts to enhance coordination at all levels, with a view to strengthening national development strategies, investing in productive capacities, helping to start and grow business and promoting opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all, and of the integration segment of 2015 of the Council, which was convened under the theme "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all",

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[9] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

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[7] Resolution 69/137, annex.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/67/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. F.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution 63/239, annex.

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the importance of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty,

Reaffirming that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries under foreign occupation, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

Reiterating its concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and expressing concern about its ongoing adverse impact in all countries, particularly developing countries, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, threaten to reverse several decades of development gains and risk pushing vulnerable populations around the world back into situations of poverty and extreme poverty,

Concerned that, past the midway point of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven, with the number of people living in poverty in its different forms and dimensions continuing to increase in some countries, and inequality is rising, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Emphasizing that corruption at all levels, including the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of such funds and assets to their countries of origin,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

Acknowledging that the irreversible eradication of poverty requires a balanced approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental,

Reaffirming that women make significant contributions to the economy, that they are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both paid and unpaid work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that gender equality and the empowerment of women are critical factors in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further the centrality of mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources, as well as the importance of policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development, at all levels and by all actors, and of reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2014, following an increase in 2013, and calling upon those Member States that have made commitments to fulfil those commitments and step up efforts to increase their assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards meeting the assistance targets,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are

necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Emphasizing the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, and in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while recognizing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and emphasizing also that countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries under foreign occupation also deserve special attention,

Taking note of the work done under the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in its advisory and programmatic support to Member States, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and encouraging the alignment of that work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note also of the recent and marked reversal in commodity prices and the fact that commodity export economies will need to adjust to a possibly protracted period of lower export and fiscal revenues and that this trend most likely will undermine the capacities of many countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a timely fashion, particularly the eradication of poverty in all its forms everywhere,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues";[11]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[12] and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

[11] A/70/281.

[12] Resolution 70/1.

3. *Also reaffirms* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", and all its targets, and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[13]

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority within the United Nations development agenda to the irreversible eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, in particular that of its regional commissions, when appropriate, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

7. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, and to urgently take measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, malnutrition and hunger, in the light of their negative impacts on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate and predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

9. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

10. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, in this regard emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of

[13] Resolution 69/313.

the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities, with the development of national capacities in developing countries continuing to be a core area of focus, and operate in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, through development programmes and projects that have the irreversible eradication of poverty as the underlying objective of their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

11. *Recognizes* the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including through education and training;

12. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

13. *Notes* that a few developed countries have fulfilled the commitment made by many countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance, expresses its concern that many countries are still falling short of their official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all such commitments remains crucial, and in this regard calls upon those countries to urgently fulfil them;

14. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[14] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

15. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food security, which will lead to rich payoffs across the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation and devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries and to supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

16. *Also recognizes* that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources, and stresses the importance of conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater

[14] A/63/539, annex.

resources, forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, addressing decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation and implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;[15]

17. *Encourages* Member States, observer States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

18. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

19. *Stresses* the resolve to eradicate extreme poverty, currently measured as living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, for all people everywhere, and the efforts to reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions;

20. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements that better reflect this multidimensionality, and emphasizes the importance of developing a common understanding among national Governments and other stakeholders of the multidimensional nature of poverty;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and resilient infrastructure development and achieving access to energy, as well as promoting decent rural employment, improving access to quality education and health care, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, expanding social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality and social exclusion;

22. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, observer States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequality for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

23. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, when appropriate, to conduct activities to accelerate and review progress in the implementation of the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

[15] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

24. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

25. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

26. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of women, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization;

27. *Stresses* the importance of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue to develop and implement social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

28. *Emphasizes* the reference in the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the need to ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;

29. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and to the means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

30. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[16] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

31. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

32. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

33. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

34. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and in strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

35. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a review of progress made by the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in implementing the Second Decade.

[16] Resolution 63/303, annex.